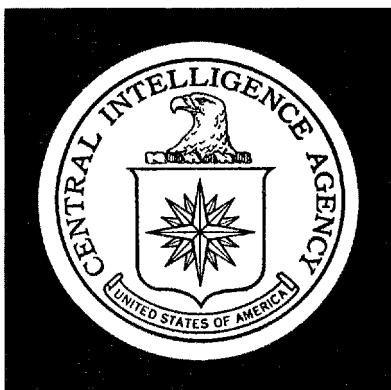


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Finland: The Communist Party is stalled in its efforts to resolve its internal differences.

No further action is likely before the leadership and conservative dissidents resume negotiations next month. Negotiations began in early May after the conservatives had threatened to form their own party if the liberal decisions of the party's April congress were not modified. Despite Soviet pressure, neither side has retreated from its initial position, and the deadline for concluding negotiations has repeatedly been postponed.

The Soviets have insisted that any sort of purge or split be avoided. They have apparently cut off financial aid to both sides. There is speculation that the Soviets are striving for a compromise which would place the party in the hands of moderates more responsive to Soviet wishes.

The liberal rank and file is increasingly critical of the leadership for its vacillation in dealing with the conservatives' factional activities, and even among the leadership the stand-off has reportedly led to bitter recriminations. The new secretary, Arvo Aalto, has insisted that the party not lose its nerve, but pursue a "divide-and-conquer" strategy against the dissidents. Aalto believes that the Soviets would respect the leadership if it showed itself to be master in its own house and that any compromise with the dissidents would result in negating the liberals' April victories. Party chairman Saarinen, however, is reluctant to take any steps which the Soviets could construe as unfriendly.

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